



Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

Wednesday, November 19, 2003  
Stadium Press Box  
7408 E. Osborn Road

Present: Chairperson Shelley Anderson, Vice-chair Leigh Hersey, Commissioners Bill Heckman, Donn Loper, Nona Oliver, and Stephen Owens

Absent: Commissioner David Fortney

Staff present: Debra Baird, Christy Hill, Courtney Kempfski Gary Meyer, Bill Moss, Bill Murphy, Doug Nesselroad, Tiffani Nichols, Judy Weiss, and Rose Williams

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Anderson called the meeting to order at 5 pm.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Chairperson Anderson asked that a moment of silence be observed.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES –

Commissioner Owens noted on Page 2 Paragraph 5 the second sentence should read **“He did review and approve the Task Force Report including the fee program, but feels that the implications of the fees were not made fully clear to the teams.”**

Chairperson Anderson asked that her comments on Page 4 Paragraph 4 be changed to reflect her statement that **“whether the City or the Little League earns the fees and spends them for maintenance it is merely who has control of the money. If there is less money the Little League spends on maintenance because they pay it in fees, it is still used for maintenance.”**

Vice-chair Hersey moved to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2003 meeting as corrected. Commissioner Owens seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT OF CURRENT EVENTS (A.R.S. § 38-431.02(K))

Debra Baird, Parks, Recreation & Facilities Director, updated the Commission on the status of events and activities of the Parks, Recreation, & Facilities Division. Veteran's Day was honored at McCormick Stillman Railroad Park; the Civic Center Senior Center Arts and Crafts Fair will be held on Saturday, November 22nd; Holiday Lights at McCormick will begin on December 16<sup>th</sup>; the Pima Park land swap would remain open space and the City would maintain the permanent easement located east of the park; Judy Weiss, Manager, gave an update on the recent neighborhood meeting on the McDowell Mountain Ranch Skatepark design; Gary Meyer, Parks/Trails Planning Manager, gave an update on the continuing

construction at LaMirada Desert Park; Ms. Baird advised the next Commission meeting will be held on December 3, 2003 at the Civic Center Senior Center; and on December 8<sup>th</sup> the City Council will hear from the Little League on the proposal that was give to the Commission at the November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## PUBLIC ART IN PARKS

Judy Weiss, Manager, gave background information about the Cultural Council and presented information on the park entry signage that was developed in conjunction with the Scottsdale Cultural Council. Margaret Bruning, Associate Curator of Public Art at the Scottsdale Cultural Council, provided the Commission additional information on the project.

Commissioner Heckman noted for the record, the Commission had strong concerns about the design of the signage. They felt the design didn't make a connection to cactus or the desert environment and had expressed safety concerns. A bigger sign would be good with better readable letters. The color scheme is good but the element doesn't say Sonoran Desert in any way, shape, or form. He asked if others have raised those issues. Ms. Weiss said during the process Risk Management reviewed the design and they didn't have concerns about the safety issues. There have been no concerns expressed since August when the sign was installed at Indian School Park. Ms. Bruning said they have not heard concerns expressed by the public about the overall design.

Scott Robertson, Public Arts Collection Committee, said the Council is used to dealing with controversy with art. They tried to get something for the park system that was unique and distinguishing from other things but also represent the consistency of more of a natural approach to signage. Some see a Palo Verde leaf along with cactus needles in this design. Most responses have been very supportive. Commissioner Heckman said he does not see the relevance to the environment and he made these comments a year ago. Jeff Ingleman, PACC and a landscape architect, noted people thought the Pima Wall was too abstract and that issues were addressed. Public art should be perceived by the public and generate dialogue. There will be those that like it and those that don't. Once these signs are set within a desert environment and the metal allowed to age the beauty of the art will emerge. That is good interaction and is what public art is supposed to do. Commissioner Heckman said the freeway talks to our colors and environment. Commissioner Heckman is concerned that the design went forward as having been blessed by the Commission when there were concerns expressed. He is surprised the comments were not addressed. Andrea Foreman, PACC, said she remembers getting the feedback. PACC chose this design because the great majority of parks are in a green environment and not in a desert setting. They were looking for something more universally accepted and for something softer than a cactus. She does not feel that cactus says PARK to outsiders. The current design says desert but overwhelmingly says park. Trees are common and the leaves were selected as a result of that. The group made a decision based on a bigger process. PACC did listen to the Commission but also listened to the design professionals. Commissioner Heckman noted the City is facing a budget crisis and asked if the Council has had assurance from the City Council for the continuation of funding mechanisms for this program. Ms. Bruning said at this time they are addressing the long-term future through the master plan. That acknowledges that CIP funds will be dwindling. The Master Plan makes recommendations and the Council's budget is contingent on the greater budget of the project.

Commissioner Loper asked what were the numbers on the feedback. Ms. Weiss noted the sign was put up in the summer with public comments being taken for about 45 days. Cards were available at the park. The response was not overwhelming with a couple dozen respondents. PACC gave comments as well. Commissioner Loper asked if the only offering was to increase the size of the lettering. Ms. Weiss said the comments they were on the overall size of the sign and the colors. Commissioner Loper asked if anyone had comments on the shape or form. Ms. Weiss said there were none. Commissioner Loper asked what the budget is for this project. Ms. Weiss said these signs are funded through the 2000 Bond initiative with a budget of \$150,000. We will buy as many as possible with that amount of money with concentration on parks that have no current identification at all. Commissioner Heckman said if you calculate it there is enough money to do about 1/3 of the parks. Ms. Weiss said it depends, the more signs you buy the lower the unit cost. Hopefully the money will do more than 1/3 of the parks.

Commissioner Loper asked if there is a pecking order on which parks get signs. Ms. Weiss said there was with one being parks without any signs. There are currently some standard monument signs that are in pretty good shape so those will not be replaced initially. Commissioner Loper asked if there was any feel for how many signs can be purchased for \$150,000. Ms. Weiss said they are about \$2,500 each but that may increase if the size increases.

Commissioner Oliver asked if these were going to be used in the rest of the parks and for new parks. Ms. Weiss said they would be used in new construction and at existing parks. Commissioner Oliver said she understood the monuments signs wouldn't be replaced. Ms. Weiss said they would eventually be replaced as some are stained or in poor shape. The specific analysis has not been done. Commissioner Oliver asked if the signs would all be ordered at once. Ms. Weiss said this will have to go through the City's purchasing process and go out to bid.

Commissioner Heckman asked what is the timeline. Ms. Weiss said it is desirable to do this project as soon as possible, but there are still some approval processes and design modifications to be completed. Hopefully the project will move forward in the next 4 to 6 months. Commissioner Heckman asked if it is possible this could be postponed due to budget issues. Ms. Weiss said it has already been postponed but this is a project that does not have any operating costs. Commissioner Heckman said it is far better than anything we have currently and the continuity in the parks is great. He feels the concept is outstanding.

Commissioner Loper asked what the process is for the final design approval. Ms. Weiss said PACC has approved this as the final design and the intent is to make it larger but not change the concept or design. The City has already approved it.

Chairperson Anderson said this is a signature of what we propose for our city and she had serious reservations. She likes where it is placed at Indian School Park and feels the height and size is good. As a desert dweller she would prefer a cactus theme. We live in the desert and we should be proud of it. She feels the colors are good and that the signs add to the City's artwork inventory. She appreciates the time and effort the Cultural Council has put forth on this project.

#### UPDATE - CAP BASIN SPORTS COMPLEX AND PUBLIC ART CONCEPT PLAN

Gary Meyer, Parks/Trails Planning Manager gave a brief update on the CAP Basin Sports Complex. Margaret Bruning, Associate Curator of Public Art, presented the public art concept plan for CAP Basin Sports Complex. Cliff Garten, the public artist has prepared an art concept and is in the process of refining the design.

Vice-Chair Hersey asked has there been discussion about signage by the portals. Ms. Bruning said they did hear that comments and want to make a connection in a subtle way.

Commissioner Oliver asked if skateboarders will be able to use the walkway also. Ms. Bruning said the interest is in deterring skateboards but making it ADA accessible.

Commissioner Heckman asked what will you see when you get up to the top of the elevated area. Ms. Bruning said you see a number of things. The artist's interest is in presenting layers of understanding and interest. At the top you notice that the view of the mountains are apparent through the railings as you are standing and there is a different view when you sit down. The objective is to create various levels of discovery. Commissioner Heckman wonders if people will use the seating area to watch any of the field activities. Ms. Bruning said it is the hope that people will find connections and uses that were not anticipated. There was even a discussion about how this area might get used for stargazing. Commissioner Heckman said this was a very contemporary design and wondered if we shouldn't be celebrating more of a Frank Lloyd Wright design element. The intent was to celebrate Scottsdale's heritage and this seems to be a perfect opportunity to make that connection. Mr. Meyer said there is some Wrightian influence in the public art design. Commissioner Heckman said the ironwork is almost

there but there are some ways to enhance the connection. Mr. Meyer said that we are looking at some cast bronze with texture and detail. Commissioner Heckman noted that corten steel would work.

Commissioner Loper noted when he went to the presentation he was excited about the idea about borrowed landscape. Once you see the profile of the mountains and then you look through a portal you will be very impressed. Some of the ideas were to have some sort of compass, and to minimize the amount of description for the portals. Perhaps there could be some pamphlet outlining the history made available to the users.

Chairperson Anderson said eventually the trees will grow wider and that might hinder the value of seeing the view through them. Some type of straight cover may be more helpful.

#### UPDATE ON THE 2003 YOUTH CORP PROGRAM

Bill Moss, Recreation Leader III, updated to the Commission on the 2003 Youth Corp Program. The program had 150 volunteers this past summer who served at 27 sites throughout the City. The volunteers provided 12,061 hours of service that translates into a savings of over \$78,000 for the City.

Commissioner Heckman has heard that Scottsdale Leadership has fielded their first class of youth leadership. It is made up of high school students and it might be something that Youth Corp volunteers participate in as they excel and go to the next level. Mr. Moss agreed theirs is much more in depth program.

Vice-chair Hersey noted the big success is when the participants come back to work for the City. Mr. Moss said this year 5 participants applied for jobs with the City. Many volunteers return year after year.

Chairperson Anderson noted she is a graduate of Junior Achievement and she applauds Staff in this program. The future is working with the kids.

#### OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC (A.R.S. § 38-431.02)

Chairperson Anderson called for any items from the floor or Commission.

Commissioner Oliver stated at the November 5, 2003 meeting she misunderstood the motion and voted yes on the Little League issue. She actually meant to vote no.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Heckman moved to adjourn the meeting. Vice-chair Hersey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

With no further business to be brought before the Commission, Chairperson Anderson adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Ruth Johnson, Recording Secretary.

Meets established criteria.



Debra Baird, Director  
Parks, Recreation and Facilities